COMMUNITY VISION

Volume XXIII, Number 9
December 2001

NEWSLETTER of the PIKES PEAK GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Opportunities Abound at the New Pride Center

From Gary Renville,
President PPGLCC Board of Directors

519 west Pikes Peak Avenue, 519 west Pikes peak Avenue, 519 west Pikes Peak Avenue, 519 west Pikes Peak Avenue, (719) 471-4**GAY**, (719) 471-4**GAY**, (719) 471-4**GAY**. I heard once that repetition and consistency are two of the keys to successful advertising. The above is not the result of someone asleep at the computer, but my way of making sure that you remember where your new pride center is, and the phone number to that center.

We have in fact moved into a house, zoned for business, that has a wonderful feel to it. We are open Tuesday-Saturday, from 1:00-5:00pm each day and we have many evening programs that should be of interest to you. This article will speak to how you can become involved-however, with no pressure to volunteer, feel free to drop in and see us at the center, call or visit our website at www.ppglcc.org. and, mark your calendars now for our house warming party on Friday, January 18. We look forward to seeing you soon!

The Pride Center is alive and well and growing by leaps and bounds. Our partnerships continue with organizations such as the Gill Foundation, the Gay and Lesbian Fund For Colorado, Fusion, S-CAP, the Imperial Court of the Pikes Peak Empire and others. We continue to offer mental health counseling, free HIV testing, support group for men who love men, movie nights and most importantly, a safe and welcoming place for all LGBT people and the community-at- large. Are you ready to get involved?

My grandfather used to tell an interesting story. In fact, he told it so many times that, in all honesty, it ceased to be interesting to us in the family. Nonetheless, he kept on telling it. This is how it went.

When my grandfather was a young man, he came into some money, legitimately, I must hasten to add. In any event, there he was with the $200, a veritable fortune in those days, and he was looking for a place to invest it, a place where that money could grow.

Now, as my grandfather told it, he was offered a stock investment that he considered very carefully. He claims that he was offered stock in something called the Ford Motor Company at the dizzying price of one dollar per share. Again, according to Grandad, he thought long and hard--and decided against it! It was too risky, he decided--too unstable. He chose, instead to invest his money in...you guessed it...a chain of livery stables! Well you know the rest. Ford Motors skyrocketed and prospered and doubled, tripled, quadrupled its worth and on and on and on. The livery stables? Well, they went the way of the horse and buggy.

You know, I don't know that Grandpa ever fully got over that. Each time he told the story, it would become a bit more embellished, and the tone of his voice would become a bit more plaintive, a bit more hollow with the ringing echo of an opportunity missed; a chance tossed aside; a treasure abandoned. Oh, the missed opportunity! Oh, the regrets, and the self-recriminations! If only he had become involved at the time!

Now, I do not have a stock offer to make to you. I'm not selling real estate or mutual funds or combination juicer/blenders. If, however, you have ever bemoaned a missed opportunity to be an active part of this community center...if you have ever said, with an appropriate ring to your voice, of course, "Oh, how I wish I could become involved in the Pride Center!" If you have ever done either of these things, or even thought them, then do I have a deal for You! You want to know how to become involved with the Pride Center? Well, I'm about to tell you.

First and foremost, don't wait to be asked. As in most things of value, you must set out and take hold of it. Sitting at home and bemoaning the fact that no one has ever asked you to help out at the pride center will produce nothing. I'm here to tell you that if you want to become involved, there is a place for you, just as soon as you take that first step. Don't sit at home and wait to be asked; volunteer today!

Next, understand that a very good way to start your involvement with the Pride Center is to attend the board meetings that take place on the second Monday of every month beginning at 5:30pm. Again, the board will not come to you. But, if you come to the meetings, I can promise you that at each and every one, there will be ample opportunity for you to become involved in a myriad of activities with this community.

Third, contact us. Board members can and will use you in a variety of situations that require your help at special events, on committees, answering phones, and being a presence in the Pride Center itself. Finally, always keep in mind that there is much to be done, and in a very real sense, it waits for you to do it.

There is a saying, "You reap what you sow." As a volunteer in our Pride Center, you will find work that will challenge you, that will take your time and effort, that will involve you and your skills. You will spend many hours being actively involved in this place. For this you will be paid nothing.

There will however, be rewards that one cannot calculate on an adding machine nor deposit in a bank account. There will be such intangible rewards as the smile of someone who is just coming out, the sense of relief conveyed when "they" have someone to listen, the protection of civil liberties in our community and much more. There will be a knowledge that is yours alone...a knowledge that you were a part of it all.

And I can promise you, you will never become like my grandfather, years later bemoaning an opportunity gone forever. So, you want to become involved in your community center? OK, here's the phone number again, (719) 471-4**GAY**. Who's first?

Please Join Us For
The Second Annual Crystal Ball
(PPGLCC Dinner and NetCoRe Awards)
Saturday, February 9, 2002

With Keynote Speaker
The Honorable, Mrs. **Mary Lou Makepeace**
Mayor, Colorado Springs

Dinner, Dancing, Silent Auction.
Call 471-4429, to reserve your seat.

Regularly Scheduled Groups

Every Tuesday - Brothers of Dorothy - a support/social group for men who love men - at the Pride Center - 6:30pm - 471-4429

Jan 16 (12pm - 2:00) **& 31** (5:00pm - 7:00)**-** Mental Health Services at the Pride Center. Free counseling from 5:30pm - 7:30pm, no appointment necessary, but recommended. 471-4429

3rd Monday - Out Volunteer - Meeting at the Pride Center 7:30pm

3rd Thursday - NetCoRe (yes, this is a new day!), business networking group. Location changes every month. Call 471-4429 for more information.

2nd Monday 5:30 **-** PPGLCC Board Meeting - all welcome to attend.

1st & 3rd Saturday 9pm **-** Coffee Den, Pride Center

1st Wednesday 7:30pm **-** Social Justice Committee

3rd Monday 7:30pm **-** OutVolunteer, Outreach, Activism and Volunteering, all rolled into one.

COMMUNITY VISION
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MISSION STATEMENT:
To create a sense of community and to promote acceptance and understanding among lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgendered people and the community at large.

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COMMUNITY VISION STAFF
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Brothers of Dorothy: . Wayne K., Art K.
NetCoRe: . . . . . Denise C.,
Carole Feathers , Paul S. & Jerry M.
Info Line Coordinator:

Volunteers are always needed at the Pride Center. We have opportunities available no matter how much time you can commit.

Please call 471-4429 to sign up.

All memberships are for one year. If you know that your membership has expired, please renew using the coupon below. Thank you for your support.

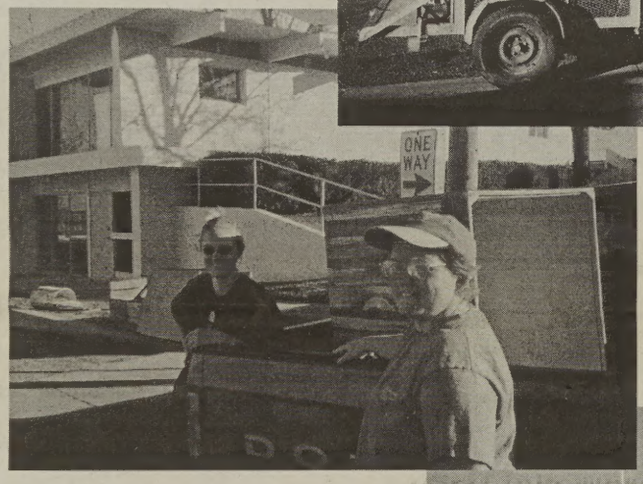
PIKES PEAK GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY CENTER
PO Box 607 Colorado Springs, CO 80901
(719) 471-4GAY (4429)
(719) 578-5049 fax
mail@ppglcc.org • www.ppglcc.org

PRIDE CENTER
519 West Pikes Peak
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Thanks to all of our volunteers who helped on Moving day.

Acacia waiting for the next box.

Jay and David securing the refrigerators.



Le' and Jenny hauling off furniture.

Wayne and others loading trucks.

PPGLCC IS LOOKING FOR POTENTIAL BOARD MEMBERS!

HAVE YOU HAD A BURNING DESIRE TO GIVE MORE TO THE COMMUNITY!
DO YOU YEARN TO BE A GUIDING FORCE!

COMPLETE AN APPLICATION TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR PPGLCC

CALL 471-4429 TO PICK UP AN APPLICATION

Join The Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Center
in
"Creating Community in Colorado Springs"

The year 2002 is going to be our time - for creating change - for building a vibrant community - for lifting our voices - for celebrating our families....won't you join us?

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____
Email_____ Phone_____

Thank you for your support!

Please make checks payable to: **PPGLCC**

If you would like to set up monthly automatic withdrawals, please call our office 719-471-4429.

PPGLCC Membership

- ☐ $10
- ☐ $25
- ☐ $50
- ☐ $75
- ☐ $100
- ☐ Other Amount _____

All members will receive a one year subscription to the Community Vision. All donations over $100 receive a free polo shirt.

Mental Health Services at the Pride Center

Do you ever wish you could find a gay or lesbian therapist in Colorado Springs?? Do you ever wish you could find one you could afford?? Well now you can!!!! PPGLCC is proud to announce that we will be offering FREE counseling with a licensed mental health lesbian therapist!! She will be at the center from 12-2 on January 16th and again on the 31st from 5-7 pm. Therapy services will be available every month.

Walk-in is fine, but to assure yourself a spot, call 471-4429 and make an appointment. Take advantage of this opportunity for FREE counseling or consultation sessions.

Ginny Oman is a licensed mental health therapist with Pikes Peak Mental Health Center and has been working with the GLBT community for over 12 years.

PIKES PEAK SUMMIT MASTERS

Join us for a Play Party
Jan 11, 8pm
in the basement of the Hide & Seek

For information
summitmasters@aol.com
www.summitmasters.com
President, Russell

A Leather, Levi, Uniform Organization

Place an ad in the Community Vision looking for friends, roommates, someone to walk with....
$10 a month - up to 10 lines Deadline the 15th of the month 471-4429

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Queer Tidbit

San Francisco Chronicle, December 13, 2001

A 'Nutty' holiday dance
Luckily, talent is not a prerequisite

C.W. Nevius, Chronicle Staff Writer

The bearded Sugar Plum Fairies pirouetted into a minor pileup during "The Waltz of the Flowers." A burly man with butterfly wings and a tiara did a dead-bug impression in the center of the dance floor. And the band played on.

If you were about to say, "Only in San Francisco," hold that thought. When the participants in the "Dance-Along Nutcracker" take the floor each year, they are making history - again.

"This is the only dance-along 'Nutcracker' in the world," said Jadine Louie, conductor of the San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band. "We get many inquiries from other cities, but once we tell them what it is, they say, 'Wow, that's too scary.' It's that inhibition factor. You have to trick them into thinking they are not going to feel like goofballs."

Right, you say. Hairy men in tutus. Seen it. Not interested.

Trust us, this is worth experiencing. It is inspired foolishness, tomfoolery on a grand and witty scale. And best of all is the sense of inclusiveness. This isn't a political action committee or a private party for members of the brother/sister/hood. This is just . . . well, fun.

As Louie writes in the program, "For two hours at least, we create a world where gender, age, ethnicity, politics, sexual identity, physical appearance - and even talent - fail to divide us."

Because if you can't appreciate the saxophone duo who perched small stuffed tigers on their shoulders for a dead-on Siegfried and Roy, or the trumpet section of the band that marched in wearing huge mouse hats while pursuing the trombone player with a foam-rubber cheesehead, well, enjoy those lumps of coal in your stocking. Not that there aren't limits.

"We talked a lot about practicing," said Sugar Plum Fairy Ric Duran, "but we never did."

"We thought," chimed in Tom Wills, a stunning figure in pink tights and matching tutu, "it would be gilding the lily to practice."

A wise choice. The spiritual center of the event is clearly Louie, who strikes the perfect droll, deadpan pose as artistic director. When, for example, featured performer Ed Boeke began his high-flinging baton-twirling routine in front of the conductor's platform, Louie popped on a yellow hard hat without missing a downbeat.

And oh, by the way, the entertainment is impeccable. Calliope (that's right) Carvajal stopped the show with a stunning "White Christmas," roller-skating accordionist Tom Sellars roared up and down the aisles, and the band was superb. Beneath those mouse hats are some legit musicians.

"We practice for this all year," Louie said of the score, which
ranged from Tchaikovsky to Spencer Holst's "Brilliant Silence." "This is the adrenaline show. We get to play ridiculously hard music, and lots of it, with lights going off and dancers."

The result is a remarkably polished performance, interspersed with free-form audience dancing. If this is the season to be jolly, this is certainly the place. Anna Damiani, field representative for Assemblyman Kevin Shelley, calls this one of the two "must see" holiday events in San Francisco, the other being the Gay Men's Chorus show on Christmas Eve.

From humble beginnings way back in 1985, it has evolved to its current state, a sold-out gala. And yet, there is always more to be done. Louie is already pondering next year's music selections, and even the Sugar Plum Fairies are looking ahead.

"Next year," says Willis, "we need to have a mission statement."

ORGANIZATIONS & MORE

ACLU - Colorado Springs Chapter 475-2529
Adoption Alliance
30 E. Rio Grande, CSC 80903. 636-9140

All Souls Unitarian Church
730 North Tejon Street, CSC 80903. 633-7717

Bacchus Wine Tasting 2nd Friday 576-3465

Bijou Bar & Grill
2510 E. Bijou. 473-5718

Christ Chapel of Southern Colorado
711 W. Arroyo, Pueblo. 719-547-1409

Community Council for Adolescent Dev.
125 N. Parkside, CSC 80909 328-1056

Citizens Chamber
121 E. Pikes Peak, Suite 459, CSC 80903 471-8824

Citizens Project,
P.O. Box 2085, CSC 80901. 520-9899

Colorado Gay Rodeo Association (CGRA)
P.O. Box 15504 CSC 8093.. . . . . 576–CGRA

Colorado Progressive Coalition. . . . . (303) 866-0908

Dignity (LGBT Catholics & friends),
P.O. Box 1172, CSC 80901,. 685-5343

El Paso County Department of Health
301 S. Union. 578-3199

Freethinkers of Colorado Spirngs
PO Box 62946, CSC 80962. 535-0320
www.freethinkerscs.com

Fusion! (HIV intervention & social group for men),
S-CAP Office 578-9092

G&L Sierrans, c/o Sierra Club,
1410 Grant St., Ste B-205, Denver, CO 80203

Gay & Lesbian National Hotline 888-415-3022

Gender Identity Center
Denver 303-202-6466

Gill Foundation,
8 South Nevada Ave., #303, CSC 80903,. 473-4455

Hide & Seek Bar, Summit Street, Manstop, Branding Iron,
512 W. Colo., ... 634-9303

High Plains Unitarian Church,
1714 Brookwood Drive, CSC 80918,. 260-1080

Inside/Out Youth Support Group,
121 Pikes Peak Ave 328-1056

Integrity. 599-5751

Log Cabin Republicans,
1012 14th St. N.W. #703, Wash., DC 20005. (202) 347-5306

Lutheran's Concerned. 574-6051

NetCoRe (Network Community Resource,
business owners & allies) 471-4429

Outfront Youth Support Group
151 Central Main, Pueblo, CO 81003,. . . . . (719) 583-4311

PFLAG Colorado Springs,
P.O. Box 10076, CSC 80932, ... 575-8658

PFLAG Pueblo,
P.O. Box 4484, Pueblo, CO 81003, ... (719) 542-6359

Pikes Peak Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Alliance.. . . . . ppglbta@hotmail.com

Pikes Peak Gay & Lesbian Community Ctr (PPGLCC),
519 W Pikes Peak Ave 471-4429

Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission
235 E. Fountain Blvd., CSC 80903, ... 632-6189

Pikes Peak Metropolitan Comm. Church (MCC)
1102 S. 21st St. Colo Springs, CO 80904,. 634-3771

Pueblo After 2,
P.O. Box 1602, Pueblo, CO 81002, ... (719) 564-4004

Pueblo Metropolitan Comm. Church
. . . . . (719) 543-6460

SCIRTS, S. Colo. IntraRegional Transgendered Society
. 591-5860

Southern Colorado AIDS Project (S-CAP)
1301 South 8th Street, CSC 80906. 578-9092
P.O. Box 3277, Pueblo, CO 81006, ... (719) 561-2616

Stonewall Democrats, Demo. HQ,
25 N. Iowa CSC 80909 473-8713

Summit Masters (levi/leather group),
P.O. Box 60485, CSC 80960 0485. 540-0332

United Court of the Pikes Peak Empire (UCPPE)
P.O. Box 6925,CSC 80934,. 685.5284

Upstart Performing Ensemble. 636-5089

Women2Womyn Bar, west of Hide & Seek, ...634-9303

Pride Center Volunteers Needed

Get Involved
From Ryan Acker, PPGLCC Board Member

How can I get involved? Can I volunteer? Where do I meet new people?
This is a great new time for the PPGLCC and we want your help in shaping it!!! We have several volunteer opportunities coming this way, and even more committees that need to be made up of people like you, our community.The time is now. The opportunities great. And the fun to be had is spectacular. (We all know how a bunch of LGBT people getting together can be - FUN.)

But wait there's more!
Maybe you like to help people. Maybe you know how important it is to hear that friendly voice on the phone when you are seeking answers. We need volunteers to help staff the Pride Center.

Yeah, there is still more!
Out Volunteer is the PPGLCC's exciting and unique project where volunteering, activism and outreach are all rolled into one. Out Volunteers volunteer for non-LGBT nonprofits and community needs, while creating understanding, awareness and postive visibilty for the LGBTA community. You can get involved with Out Volunteer by emailing outvolunteer@ppglcc.org.

Oh you know there is more, but this is a volunteer pitch.You'll have to stay tuned for the rest, or you can check out our website: www.ppglcc.org, stop by the center, shoot us an email, or of course come volunteer with us to meet the real people with the scoop!

WE NEED YOU!
CALL TODAY!
471-4429

LOVE MATTERS:
Some Holiday Gift Ideas For Your Beloved

by Linda Sutton

1. **Give the gift of time.**
   Have breakfast in bed.
   Go on a picnic.
   Curl up in front of a fire.
   Watch the sun set.
   Let the phone ring.
2. **Give the gift of presence**
   Share a dream.
   Say how you feel.
   Confess a fear.
   Enjoy silence.
   Smile often.
3. **Give the gift of laughter.**
   Tell a joke.
   Rent a funny movie.
   Laugh out loud- often.
   Buy a gag gift.
   Play jacks.
4. **Give the gift of touch.**
   Savor a kiss.
   Go dancing.
   Give a backrub.
   Spoon in bed.
   Hold hands.
5. **Give the gift of reverence.**
   Respect a difference.
   Cherish a foible.
   Praise out loud.
   Honor a secret.
6. **Give the gift of gratitude.**
   Speak your love.
   Be thankful.
   Pay a compliment.
   Go out of your way.
   Celebrate happy memories.
7. **Give the gift of understanding.**
   Really listen.
   Tolerate mistakes.
   Cultivate compassion.
   Meet more than halfway.
   Practice loving kindness.
8. **Give the gift of forgiveness.**
   Mend a quarrel.
   say you're sorry.
   Correct a mistake.
   Let it go.
   Have mercy.
9. **Give the gift of play.**
   Blow bubbles.
   Take golf lessons.
   Make a silly face.
   Take a bath together.
   Act out a fantasy.
10. **Give the gift of integrity.**
    Be faithful.
    Keep your promise.
    Say what you mean.
    Speak your whole truth.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Linda Sutton, M.A., is a psychotherapist and author of LOVE MATTERS: A Book of Lesbian Romance and Relationships(Harrington Park Press). For more information concerning individual, couples' or group psychotherapy contact Linda at 719-632-0465.

A DAY LONG RELATIONSHIP WORKSHOP FOR LESBIAN COUPLES

We can make it work, can't we?

Are you a long-standing couple, see yourself as permanent, but feel stuck, disconnected,stressed out, or even bored?

Are you a brand new couple determined to do it differently this time, but not exactly sure what that means?

Are you a couple trying to decide whether to stay together or are in the midst of a break-up and need help in saying goodbye?

Are you a happy couple simply wanting to do what it takes to stay that way?

Linda Sutton and Maureen Stevens offer you and your lover a day long retreat for relationship renewal.

They will share with you effective tools and techniques for refreshing and renewing your love whether you are embarking on a new relationship, caring for an on-going one, or about to say goodbye.

Approaching love as a daily practice, this workshop will explore:
- What matters in love?
- What is a daily practice of love?
- What can we expect to change in ourselves? In our lovers?
- How do we create and maintain the love we really want?

Linda and Maureen's relationship is grounded in psychology, spirituality, and humor. During this day, they will share some of the relationship wisdom they have developed and resources they have found helpful in the course of their 20 years together. They will offer a road map for lasting love.

WHEN.- SATURDA Y, JANUARY 1,9th 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
COST- $150/couple (lunch included)
WHERE. Location to be announced.

To Register Call Linda by January 1 at 632-0465

OUR LOVE MATTERS...- WE DESERVE HAPPY, LASTING RELATIONSHIPS
Love Matters came to be to celebrate and support lesbian and gay relationships.

REGULARLY SCHEDULED ACTIVITIES

SUNDAY:

- **Dignity Brunch** 2nd Sun., Colorado Grill, 11:30 a.m., 685-5343
- **Pueblo MCC,** Christ Congregational, 5:00 p.m. (719) 543-6460
- **MCC Service** 1102 S. 21st Street 9am & 10:30 a.m., 634-3771
- **PFlag Pueblo,** 2nd Sun., (719) 542-6359
- **Bowling,** Peak Bowling Center, 6:30pm 260-5987
- **Lambda Report,** Ch. 12/32 KBDI, 11p.m.,
  Christ Chapel of Southern Colorado 10am, 711 W. Arroyo (719) 547-1409

MONDAY:

- **PPGLCC General Board Meeting**
  2nd Monday, The Pride Cent 5:30p.m 471-4429
- **NetCoRe Mixer,** 3rd Mon., location varies,
  5:00-7p.m., 474-7674
- **CGRA potluck/meeting,**
  1st Mon., Branding Iron (H&S), 6 p.m., 635-9011
- **Pro-Choice Coalition,** 3rd Mon., CC,
  6:30 p.m. 570-1153
- **FUSION! POP** (planning party), 1st Mon.,
  1301 S. 8th, 6:30 p.m., 578-9092
- **MCC Fellowship Live Care Group,**
  7:00 p.m. 634-3771
- **Pueblo After 2,** 1st Mon., Main Library, Pueblo,
  7:00 p.m., (719) 564-4004
- **Gay AA,** Anthony Annex, All Souls Unitarian,
  8:00 p.m., 573-5020

TUESDAY:

- **S-CAP Client Services Meeting,** \
  2nd Mon. every other month, 1-2 p.m., 578-9092
- **S-CAP Client Services Potluck,** 1st Tues, 12 noon 578-9092
- **Transgendered Support Group,** 591-5860
- **FUSION!** Sip 'n Sup, 2nd Tues., 6:30 p.m., 578-9092
- **Brothers of Dorothy** A group for men who love men,
  Pride Center, 6:00-8:00 p.m. 471-4GAY
- **MCC Fellowship Live Care Group,** 7:00 p.m., 634-3771
- **Live & Let Live** (GLBT AA Pueblo), 7:00 p.m., (719) 546-1173
- **Free pool** 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m., Hide & Seek

WEDNESDAY:

- **Inside/Out Youth Group,** Pride Ctr, 5:30 p.m., 328-1056
- **Inside/Out Youth Group Recreation,** 2nd & 4th Wed, 6:30 p.m.
- **This Way Out,** KRCC, 91.5 FM, 6:30p.m., sponsored by PPGLCC
- **PFlag Colo. Spgs.** 2nd Wed., 6:30 p.m. 575-8658
- **S-CAP Board Meeting,** 3rd Wed., 6:30 p.m. 578-9092
- **Summit Masters** 3rd Wed 7pm Hide & Seek 540-0332
- Freethinkers of CS, 4th Wednesday, Police Ops Center, 7pm 535-0320

THURSDAY:

- **MCC Fellowship Live Care Group,** 7:00 p.m. 634-3771
- **Take Ten w/ Mayor Makepeace,**
  2nd Thu., 5-7 p.m., Call 385-5453 after 3 p.m.
- **Marriage Transitions,** 1st & 3rd Thu., 638-0004

FRIDAY:

- **FUSION! Game Night/Potluck**
  at member's house, 3rd Fri., 7:00 p.m., 578-9092
- **Gay AA,** Anthony Annex,
  All Souls Unitarian, 8:00 p.m., 573-5020
- **Gay Friendly AA,** MCC, 6:00 pm 573-5020
- **Bacchus Wine Tasting,** 2nd Friday, $12, 576-3465

SATURDAY:

- **Adopt-A-Highway-** 2nd Sat., Hwy. 24 near Cascade, 471-4GAY
- **Mass for GLBT Comm.-** 1st Sat., Sacred Heart, 7:00 p.m., 685-5343
  Members of Dignity Southern Colorado will be there to welcome you.
- **ALSO Potluck,** 3rd Sat., All Souls Annex, 5:30 p.m., 685-4773
- **Women's Social Group** 1st & 3rd Sat., 471-4GAY
- **Gay Themed Movies,** 4th Sat. (also see Tues),
  FUSION! @ All Souls Unitarian, 7:00 p.m.

DAILY

- **"Hightower Report"** (Jim Hightower), KKCS, 1460 AM, 7:23 a.m.

Peace & Happiness From Our Family To Yours

Gertrude's
RESTAURANT

2625 West Colorado Ave. • 471-0887

BREAKFAST: Monday - Friday 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. • Saturday & Sunday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
LUNCH: Monday - Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. DINNER: Tuesday - Sunday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

PRIDE CENTER WISH LIST

- YOUR TIME
- YOUR COMMITMENT
- YOUR INVOLVEMENT
- YOUR ATTENDANCE

December & January Calendar of Events

Tuesday, December 18th- Brothers of Dorothy- 7pm at the Pride Center

Wednesday, December 19th- Mental Health Counseling- 5-7pm at the Pride Center

Thursday, December 20th- Netcore- 5:30pm at the Pride Center

Friday, December28th- Movies & Munchies- 8-11pm at the Pride Center

Wednesday, January 2nd -Social Justice Committee Mtg. 7:30pm at the Pride Center

Saturday, January 5th - Coffee Den - 9pm

Monday, January 7th - Exec. Committee Meeting - 5:30pm at the Pride Center

Tuesday, January 8th- Brothers of Dorothy- 7pm at the Pride Center

Monday, January 14th- Board Meeting- 5:30pm at the Pride Center

Tuesday, January 15th- Brothers of Dorothy- 7pm at the Pride Center

Wednesday, January 16th- Mental Health Counseling-12-2pm at the Pride Center

Thursday, January 17th- Netcore-To Be Determined

Friday, January 18th- House Warming- 6-8:3pm at the Pride Center

Saturday, January 19th- Coffee Den

Monday, January 21st- Out Volunteer Committee Mtg.- 7:30pm at the Pride Center

Tuesday, January 22nd- Brothers of Dorothy- 7pm

Wednesday, January 23rd- Membership Round Table- 7pm at the Pride Center.

Friday, January 25th- Movie Night- 8-11pm at the Pride Center.

Monday, January 28th- Free HIV Testing-5:30pm at the Pride Center

Tuesday, January 29th- Brothers of Dorothy- 7pm

Thursday, January 31st- Mental Health Counseling- 5-7pm

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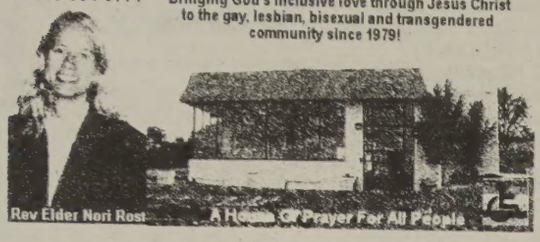

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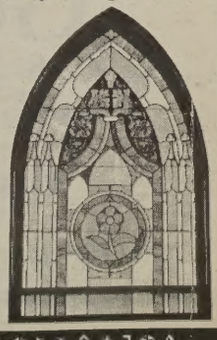

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queer's eye view by frank whitworth

An End and A Beginning

We have just seen the passing of an era--the end of a noble experiment that never realized its full potential.

In 1993 the search for a place to call our own reached fruition when Ground Zero and the Pikes Peak Gay and Lesbian Community Center contracted for what was to be called "The Pride Center." Imagined as a place for all elements of the community, the opening was accompanied with great fanfare at a party paid for and attended by Tim Gill.

In those early years, Ground Zero was the main user of the facility. PPGLCC maintained an office. The excitement was that several groups occupied and utilized the space. These included New Phases, Pikes Peak Metropolitan Community Church, Inside/Out, The United Court, La Guia, the Gill Foundation. (Yep--the first offices for the foundation were in the Center), A.I.M. and the Housing Advocacy Coalition.

Those early days were wonderful. There was an air of being and working together. Never had the community been so close and so involved. Through the years many utilized the space for parties, meetings, etc. Armistead Maupin read from his "Tales of the City" and Gil Alexander-Moegerle spoke on his book, James Dobson's War On America. Weddings were held as were memorial services for those who have left us. The celebration on the demise of Amendment 2 was held there.

Many journeyed to the Center from all over the country--a pilgrimage much like going to Mecca for Moslems. Essentially every major news media in the country had contact with or came to the Pride Center over the years.

I note with sadness the more recent several years when groups moved out or simply ceased to exist and the unity and camaraderie that had been seemed to dissipate. PPMCC has a beautiful building of its own; the Gill Foundation occupies a huge building in Denver with the Gay and Lesbian Fund ensconced in large facilities in downtown Colorado Springs. Ground Zero, La Guia and New Phases are no more and the others have found new locations.

The Pride Center is no more. The last two occupants, PPGLCC and Inside/Out have moved to new and separate facilities.

I am hopeful for their future but yearn for the unity that use to be. Perhaps, someday, we will witness a new golden era for the community that will see a "real" and sustained Pride Center rise once more in the former "Belly of the Beast."

One of the reasons for the inability to maintain the Pride Center was lack of sufficient funding support from the Community. PPGLCC carries away a significant debt that must be paid. This is not insurmountable but, nonetheless, requires an extra special effort to raise funds that reaches beyond the usual to those who seldom or never have given. Those who maintain their distances, whether busy running golf organizations or running major corporations, need to cut loose with some funds to show their appreciation for what has been done for a community that includes them, albeit in their closets.

> I want to say "I'm Counting On You," but the truth is the community is counting on you.

The Center needs about $10,000 to catch up and a couple more thousand to pay for the expense of the move, etc. Surely in a community of 500,000, where there are between 25,000 and 50,000 gays, lesbians, transgendered and bisexual people, this should be an easy amount to raise.

Ongoing, the Center needs more support from the community if it is to maintain its new facility and make it viable with at least one half -time staff person. Volunteers to fill the rest of the time are needed also.

For those on tighter budgets, they simply need give up the cost of a night out once a month that this service may go on, may continue to be there for those who need it and for the community as a whole.

And for those who are fairly flush with (and seeming very tight with) assets, how 'bout popping for $500 or a $1,000 once in a while, including immediately. You've got it. Spend a little bit where it will do some good and take it off your taxes.

I want to say "I'm Counting On You," but the truth is the community is counting on you. Do it for those who find the Center in times of need and desperation; do it for a voice in this very conservative community; do it for those struggling with coming out who search for support and answers; and do it for the symbol of having a center in this bastion of Ed Bircham, Will Perkins and James Dobson. Need I say Please????

Salvation Army and James Dobson

A seemingly enlightened Salvation Army allowed regions to make their own decisions in regard providing domestic benefits to Gays and Lesbians . This was a major step in the right direction. ONE MIGHT EVEN SAY THAT IT WAS THE CHRISTIAN THING TO DO.

The terribly wrong and hate-filled James Dobson saw it otherwise. He launched a campaign to have this policy reversed because it would set a precedent for others. Millions of Dobson's cattle were urged by way of his radio program to send messages of exclusion and intolerance to the Salvation Army. Other very wrong organizations joined them in this effort.

Cowed, the Salvation Army powers that be tucked in their tails and ran from their right decision; ran from the teachings of the Christ they suggest they follow, reversing their decision. This immediately affected the western region that had done the right thing by extending domestic benefits.

It's too late to say "shame on you, James Dobson." Dobson. He, long ago, proved he has no shame and there are no boundaries to his white male heterosexism. Certainly, it would do no good to send that message to the American Family Association, Christian Coalition, Pat Robertson or Jerry Falwell, who support this type of action. I must, however, address those at the Salvation Army who, having done the right thing--yes, the Christian thing-were faced by the devil --who then had his way with them. Shame on you.

I admit to not being a large contributor to the Salvation Army. Once in a while I would drop a buck or two in those Christmas buckets.

> "Silence is Death" is a saying with which we are familiar.

No more will I do that. Instead, I am now putting fake paper dollars that can be downloaded off line that carry the message that so long as the Salvation Army stays in the clutches of the Devils, I will withhold any funding support--period.

I strongly urge all to do likewise. By doing this, you get the opportunity to send the message to the Salvation Army. You also get the opportunity to bankrupt the American Family Association, that has pledged up to $1,000 for each of this fake bucks tendered in the Salvation Army buckets. I truly would like to see millions of them dropped. Bet the AFA runs from that pledge as fast as the Salvation Army ran from the teachings of Jesus.

Holy War

This morning The Gazette (12/10/01) headline read "Thou Shalt Seize The Moment." Functionally this article documents the Fundamentalist Right's desire to capitalize on 9-11 to further their goal to wipe out the "Separation of Church and State" that is at the root of our country's greatness. They would impose, instead, their version of Christianity and interpretation of Biblical Law on us (sounds mighty much like the Taliban to me.)

Along the way, they have tried to develop a religious war with Islam that would serve them (and their ability to raise mass quantities of money) well. They began salivating after their collection plates filled to overflowing following the incidences of September 11.

The big Satan is the American Civil Liberties Union and other civil libertarians who have thus far successfully stopped the far right from taking over the country. In his testimony before Congress Attorney General John Ashcroft, himself owned by the Far Right as well as the gun lobby, launched an attack on the ACLU and civil libertarians that coincides with those being proffered by Fundamentalists across the nation.

Obviously Ashcroft and these others got the word from the Far Right's think tank, the Council for National Policy, to take advantage of the tragedy by attacking all who will not walk lock step with them toward a theocratic America. Those on this council, that include Dobson, Falwell, North, Kennedy (D James), Robertson, and the list goes on, see themselves as the "heirs apparent" to a "failing America." They would gladly see America in crisis, destroyed by their own effort, that they could offer themselves and their philosophies as our saviors.

Church attendance went up by half again in the weeks following September 11. It is now back to about forth-eight percent. Somewhere around 15% attend Fundamentalists sects. The rest are real Christians, Jews, Moslems, etc.

But this small minority are loud and they are very good at seizing the moment. At the same time we, those who do not subscribe to their extremism, are very good at being apathetic. Indeed, they count on it.

Civil liberties in America are under attack in America like they have never been. During crises and situations such as we are experiencing now, following September 11, many Americans are temporarily convinced that we have to give up some of those civil liberties. Interestingly, it is always those on the far right who preach this.

Nothing is further from the truth. It is at times like these that our civil liberties are most important and are the best example of what differs us from Taliban types and terrorists.

Certainly not all of Christianity is bad and, in fact, most still adhere to the teachings of Jesus. But there is a loud minority found among the Christian Fundamentalist Sects that are America's version of the Taliban--that nourish America's domestic terrorists.

"Silence is Death" is a saying with which we are familiar. These elements are counting on the rampant nationalism of the moment to silence opposition to their extremism, offered as a way to protect our way of life. Indeed, they are the most dangerous threat, not the Taliban, not foreign terrorists. It is them we must most fear and resist.

Ralph Reed (former head of the Christian Coalition) said once (and I paraphrase). that they come in the night and before we know they are there, they win the day.

Think about it!!!

Prostate Cancer and Me

A little over a month ago I wrote of my discovery that I had Prostate Cancer. I now report that I have had the procedure called "brachytherapy" (radioactive seed implantation) and survived. My doctors say all is going very well and I should expect a full recovery.

It has been a little more uncomfortable than I had thought and it is taking me longer to get up and out there again. Frequent urination and acute tiredness still grip me. My sleep is interrupted numerous times in the night as my body demands visits to the porcelain alter. I am told that these things will reduce over the next several months as the radioactive seeds lose their potency and their effects on my body become less intrusive. Some say it will take a year to get back totally to normal (if it may be said that I have ever been normal.)

I am very pleased at the number of men who read my article last month and who have told me they have been moved to be checked, many for the first time ever, for prostate cancer. Caught in time, it is almost 100% curable. So it's a little uncomfortable been probed and stuck many times during the process. Think of it this way-it's probably much more uncomfortable for straight men. If you are at risk (family history) or you are 50+, get tested. It's easy and painless.

And, if you find yourself being told that cancer was found and want to talk to someone who's been there, done that--get in touch with me.

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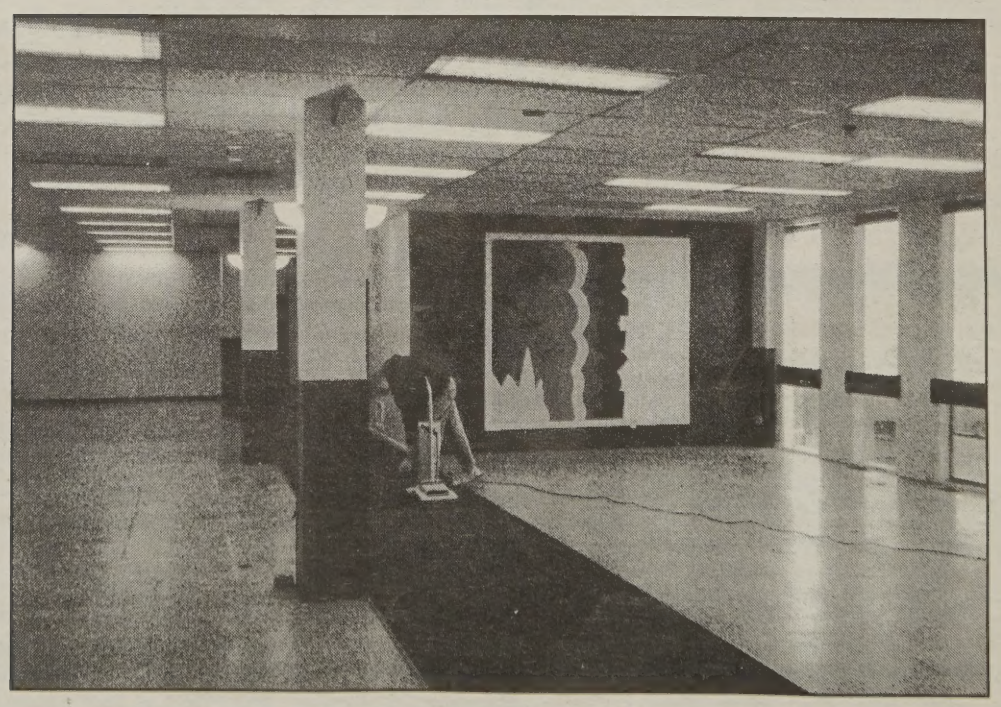

Last one out, turn off the lights. The party's just beginning.